

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Annual Report of the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC)

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 605.110 (3) (a)-(f), KRS 158.135 (2) (a) (b) (4) 137, 505 KAR 1:080, KRS 15A.065)

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Kentucky General Assembly enacted the landmark Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) in 1990; however, the needs of state agency children were not specifically addressed. As a result, the Kentucky General Assembly in 1992 passed legislation establishing the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KRS 158.135). In 1994, the eligibility for state agency children was expanded to include those youth located in state-operated and contracted day treatment, group homes, and residential placements. The definition of state agency children was also broadened to include those youth placed or financed through the Cabinet for Families and Children in other residential treatment programs. In 1996 the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice was established (KRS 15A.065) and subsequently the responsibility for youthful and public offenders was transferred to the new agency. In 1998, the definition of state agency children was further expanded to include youth in therapeutic foster care and those confined to state-operated juvenile detention facilities.

KRS 158.135 requires that KECSAC report annually to the Chief State School Officer. “The Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children shall make to the Chief State School Officer the reports required concerning school services for state agency children and shall file with the Cabinet for Families and Children unit operating or regulating the institution or day treatment center, or contracting for services, in which the children are located a copy of the annual report made to the Chief State School Officer.” The actual Annual Report is included as Attachment A. Staff from the Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children will appear at the February meeting to discuss its content.

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) has recently engaged in conversations about the educational services supported through KECSAC. In its April 2005 meeting, the KBE requested that KECSAC programs analyze their CATS data to determine ways to improve educational services to the youth served in these programs. As a result, each KECSAC program has developed a program improvement plan. These improvement plans will establish baselines for student academic performance, which can be utilized thereafter for

continuous program improvement. Additionally, KECSAC staff will use the improvement plans during monitoring visits to determine progress in reaching program goals.

The 2006 Kentucky Performance Report for A6 programs (Attachment B) shows serious academic deficiencies for State Agency Children. The Total Academic Index for elementary students increased in 2006 to 36.1 (up from 28.7 in 2005). The Total Academic Index for middle school students was 33.1 in 2006 (down from 33.7 in 2005). The Total Academic Index for high school was 37.5 in 2006 reflecting little change from 37.3 in 2005. Although there was improvement in the elementary index, academic scores remain very low for state agency children.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Increasing numbers of Kentucky students are receiving educational services in KECSAC (A6) programs. As these numbers of students grow, the quality of education services they receive in these programs becomes increasingly important in regard to reaching proficiency.

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